



# Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program Guidelines

## Eligibility

- ≈ Applicant must be a customer of Austin Water or an eligible water district.
- ≈ Rebates are issued to the property owner or utility account holder only.
- ≈ Participation is limited to once every 12 months.
- ≈ Rebates are available for new systems or existing systems adding storage capacity.
- ≈ Only finished tanks sold exclusively for rainwater collection are eligible. Second-hand or self-made rainbarrels or tanks purchased from or previously rebated by Austin Water are not eligible. Invoices must include purchase date, vendor name, address, and phone number.
- ≈ **Purchases must have been made on or after July 1, 2010 to qualify for the rebate.**

## Program Information

Austin Water offers a financial incentive to encourage rainwater harvesting for non-potable uses. Rebates of \$0.50 per gallon are available for non-pressurized systems (i.e. rainbarrels) and \$1.00 per gallon for pressurized systems (i.e. large cisterns with a pump) not to exceed 50% of system cost. Steps for participation vary based on storage capacity installed. Please see below for application instructions.

## System Requirements

- ≈ Tanks 500 gallons and larger require the installation of a first-flush diversion system and a sturdy, level base constructed of gravel, sand, or concrete. Wooden, above ground platforms are not permitted for large cisterns.
- ≈ Unlined galvanized collection tanks are NOT eligible. However, metal tanks with liners may be approved by submitting tank specifications.
- ≈ Transparent or translucent collection tanks and piping must be painted or enclosed to prevent penetration from sunlight.
- ≈ Rainwater harvesting systems utilizing a pump require the installation of a reduced pressure zone backflow prevention assembly at City of Austin water meters. Installation of the assembly requires a plumbing permit. Depending on your system, other permits may be required. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the system does not violate City Code requirements (including setbacks, impervious cover, etc.) and homeowners association enforced restrictions.

## Rebate Amount

- ≈ \$0.50 per gallon for non-pressurized systems not to exceed 50% of system cost.
- ≈ \$1.00 per gallon for pressurized systems not to exceed 50% of system cost.
- ≈ Total maximum lifetime rebate amount of \$5,000 per site.
- ≈ Rebate covers materials and labor for dedicated system components including tank, pad, screens, filters, first-flush, and selected piping installation only, but does not include gutters, irrigation system components, or backflow preventers.

## Application Instructions

### Less than 500 gallons

1. Purchase and install rainbarrels.
2. Submit application and receipts within **30 days** of purchase.
3. Austin Water staff may schedule and conduct a system inspection to verify installation prior to issuing rebate.

### 500 gallons or more

1. **Prior to purchase**, submit application for review.
2. Austin Water will notify applicant of approval status.
3. Purchase and install system.
4. Submit receipts and rebate calculation worksheet within 90 days of conditional approval.
5. Austin Water staff will schedule and conduct a system inspection to verify installation prior to issuing rebate.

*For information  
on more ways you  
can conserve water, visit  
[www.WaterWiseAustin.org](http://www.WaterWiseAustin.org)*



# Rainwater Harvesting Rebate Program Application

Please read the program guidelines on page 1 prior to completing this form.

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### Are you applying for:

- ☐ **less than 500 gallons** (installation must be complete prior to application submission)  
Installation date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ **500 gallons or more** (application must be submitted for review prior to purchase or installation)

### Property type:

- ☐ Single-Family    ☐ Multi-Family    ☐ \*Commercial, Institutional, or Industrial  
\*Commercial applicants must include a completed W-9 form with application.

Applicant (must be owner or account holder) \_\_\_\_\_

Austin Water Account No. or water district name \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Installation Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Total new storage capacity \_\_\_\_\_ Is a pump included? ☐ Yes ☐ No

For systems of 500 gallons or more, a site drawing, system drawing, and operation and maintenance guide must be included with the application. Please check off the items below to indicate that each is included.

- ☐ **Site drawing:** sketch the layout of buildings, streets adjacent to the site, existing/proposed tank location(s), Austin Water meter location, and piping from the tank to the landscaped areas. Identify the dimensions of the catchment area and the landscaped area to be irrigated with the harvested rainwater.
- ☐ **System drawing:** sketch the system, including piping and first flush details, pump location (if applicable), tank material, placement, and dimensions, and pad materials and construction.
- ☐ **Operation & maintenance guide:** written description of how the system will function and how maintenance will be performed.

## Customer Agreement

I certify that the information I have supplied in the application is accurate and that I have read and understand the program guidelines. I understand Austin Water does not assume liability for rebated products or services and that rebate application consideration or rebate receipt does not take the place of any required permits or inspections. I agree to: make a good faith effort to keep my rainwater harvesting system functional for at least five years and larger rainwater collection systems for at least 10 years; install and maintain required backflow prevention if the system is pressurized; not use collected rainwater for potable use; and allow Austin Water to reference my project in outreach materials and to be contacted regarding participation in public viewings or promotional tours of rainwater harvesting systems. I understand that Austin Water reserves the right to cancel or modify the program without notice and that rebates are subject to funding availability.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Mail applications and other documents to:

Austin Water Conservation  
P.O. Box 1088  
Austin, TX 78767

Or fax to: 974-3504